

Appl. No.: 10/693,823

Applicant : Yaron Mayer et. al.

Reply to Office action of Jul. 24, 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Regarding clause 1 of your examination report, as far as I understand the foreign priority documents can be filed without surcharge until before the issue fee is paid. I will file them on time.
2. Regarding clause 2 of your examination report, the priority and benefit of the earlier applications have been claimed properly also at the beginning of the specification. I have spoken with your supervisor Thomas Tarcza on Aug. 7, 2007, and he confirmed that everything is OK and the reason that you did not see it is that simply the specification was scanned by mistake in 2 parts instead of one part – so if you look at the PAIR record you will see that the priorities have been claimed properly in the first part. The supervisor said he would send you an email about this and make a notice about this, and also confirmed that the published application will be corrected accordingly.
3. Regarding clauses 3-5 of your examination report, as far as I understand the examiner that quoted the Japanese patent JP 59186498 in the international search report of PCT WO 2006/005948 (Said PCT was filed after our application), used it only to attack claims 23-32 in this PCT and not claims 1-22, since apparently he understood that the Microphone in the Japanese patent is not directional, and he did not quote at all the other 2 Japanese patents by the same inventor, possibly because he thought that they were less relevant. In addition, from the abstract and drawings of these 3 Japanese patents it is not clear at all if the distortions in the ultrasonic beam is used for detecting normal audible sounds, so I have added to independent claims 1 & 9 the specific limitation “including sounds of audible frequencies”, and I have added additional limitations from the dependent claims. Also, since 2 of these Japanese patents do mention directivity (but it is not clear what kind of directionality and in what context), to be further on the safe side I have also

added to independent claims 1 & 9 further specific limitations about specific ways of achieving directionality in our application. Alternatively, I have added other limitations from the dependent claims about the methods for detecting the distortions. I have also added another limitation that overcomes any problems with US patent 6,590,661 which you quoted in your previous office action, so the variation of using at least one light beam (which was temporarily canceled in my previous reply) could be now restored back.

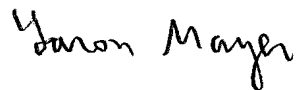
Therefore, in view of the above, I respectfully request that a timely notice of allowance be issued in this case. However, I would appreciate it very much if you could contact me in advance (for example by phone to 972-2-5665072 or by email to aron@vms.huji.ac.il) before issuing the notice of allowance in order to give me a chance to make final adjustments in the claims.

Also, if there are further issues that need clarification I would appreciate it very much if you contact me before issuing a further office action.

Respectfully submitted,

Yaron Mayer

/Yaron Mayer/

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yaron Mayer". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.